Though the notices for consideration and passing were given in the Budget Session, 2000 and Monsoon Session 2000, the Bill did not come up for consideration and passing in that House due to absence of consensus on the issue. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of India in an all party meeting called on 29.4.2000, among other proposals for electoral reforms, discussed the subject of 'Representation of Women in Parliament and State Legislatures'. The proposal mooted by the Commission, which envisaged that the parties will put up the minimum agreed percentage of women candidates in order to continue to retain their recognition with the Election Commission, was also not able to generate the consensus. In order to hold discussion on the provisions of the aforesaid Bill, the Bill was listed for consideration and passing in that House on 21.12.2000 and 22.12.2000 during the Winter Session, 2000, but could not be considered. Thus the Government made sincere efforts to debate and discuss the Bill in the Houses of Parliament and to evolve consensus among all the Political Parties. However, consensus has continued to elude. The Government has done its duty by introducing the necessary legislation and it has an open mind on any suggestions which may come from the Hon'ble Members.

Setting up of Welfare Fund for Lawyers

1073. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a welfare fund for lawyers in distress;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when this fund is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (c) The matter concerning setting up of a welfare fund for lawyers is under consideration of the Government. It is, however, difficult to indicate any definite time-frame within which the said fund may be set up, since the same involves various steps, including inter-departmental consultation.

Fast Track Exit Scheme

1074. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Fast Track Exit Scheme of the Company Law Board has turned out to be a failure, even after extending several times;